



NORTH CAROLINA



NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY

Year Funded	Type of Program	Affiliation	Compliance with Public Law 102-515: Legislation and Regulations [†]	
			Authorizing legislation for a statewide registry: Yes	Regulations in place for data reporting, confidentiality, and use: All
1994	Enhancement	State Health Department		

*Source: NPCR Legislative Database, January 2001.

Cancer Burden

Cancer is a devastating disease. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2001 an estimated 553,400 Americans will die of cancer, and approximately 1.3 million new cancer cases will be diagnosed. These estimates do not include in situ (preinvasive) cancer of any site except urinary bladder or approximately 1 million cases of nonmelanoma skin cancer to be diagnosed this year. In North Carolina, an estimated 37,300 new cancer cases will be diagnosed, and approximately 16,300 will die of this disease in 2001. North Carolina ranks 25th highest overall in cancer mortality rates among the 50 states and Washington, D.C.*

The NPCR

Cancer surveillance involves the systematic collection, analysis, and use of cancer data. Information derived through surveillance is critical for directing effective cancer prevention and control programs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's **National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR)**, authorized by Congress in 1992 through the Cancer Registries Amendment Act (Public Law 102-515), serves as the foundation of a national, comprehensive cancer control strategy. Statewide cancer registries provide critical data to help identify and monitor trends in cancer incidence and mortality over time; guide cancer control planning and evaluation; help

allocate health resources; and advance clinical, epidemiologic, and health services research.

Through the NPCR, CDC supports registries in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and three territories, representing 96% of the U.S. population.[†] Forty-five programs receive support to enhance existing registries; these have on-going cancer data-collection activities, policies and procedures for central registry operations in place, and core staff employed. Four programs receive support to plan and develop new registries; they are typically involved in laying the necessary groundwork for establishing a central, population-based registry.

With fiscal year 2001 appropriations of approximately \$36 million, CDC continues to support and enhance state cancer registries, and promotes appropriate uses of data. The CDC will also develop special research projects, such as studies of patterns of cancer care in specific populations and assessments of data for integration with geographic information systems.

State Highlights

- The North Carolina Central Cancer Registry (NCCCR) was certified by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries for completeness, timeliness, and quality of its 1997 data.
- For a number of years, the NCCCR has prepared projections of cases

and deaths for the upcoming year. These are used by hospitals for their annual reports and for estimating the need for services, and by county health departments and the state cancer control program for planning screening and educational programs.

- Annually, the NCCCR responds to approximately 1,000 requests for data about cancer. These are for cancer cluster investigations, educational pieces in the news media, grant proposals and baseline data for researchers, the state's cancer control program for planning and evaluating their activities, and marketing and needs assessments by hospitals.
- The NCCCR matches its data with the Carolina Breast and Cervical Cancer Program to ascertain missed cases in each data set. In addition, the NCCCR occasionally links its data with cohorts assembled by researchers. In the past year, these have included the Agricultural Health Study and the Love Canal population.

Continued

*Source: CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, vital statistics data, underlying cause of death, 1993-1997.

[†]A map of the participating NPCR programs can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/statecon.htm>.

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